lodged a complaint with the Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum.

7. *Punjab National Bank, Faidabad Branch:*

Complaint was received on 23.9.88 about theft from lockers. CBI did not find the case fit for investigation and the Bank has declined the claim.

8. *Punjab National Bank, The Mall Road Branch, Delhi:*

Complaint was received on 8.1.92 about the missing of 10 bangles of one to each. The Police have made preliminary investigation.

9. *Dena Bank, Park Circus Branch, Calcutta:*

RBI had received a complaint in February 1989, about the alleged theft of 10 articles of jewellery weighing approx. 50 tolas of gold from the locker of the complainant.

10. *Canara Bank, Mysore Branch:*

RBI had received a complaint in March, 1989 about the alleged theft of a gold necklace weighing more than e totals from the locker of the complainant.

(f) The banks have their own internal instructions/guidelines for the maintenance and operation of lockers. RBI has advised the banks to take precautionary measures particularly with regard to the location of the vault, nature of lockers, need for burglar alarm systems and liaison with local Police.

[*Translation*]

Production and Demand of Gold

1705. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the yearly production of gold and its estimated public demand;

(b) whether smuggling in gold is resorted to due to the wide gap in its demand and supply; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to fulfil the demand of gold from various sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). Gold has been traditionally sensitive to smuggling into the country on account of gap between the domestic demand and supply and also because of the difference between low international prices and higher domestic prices. The annual production of primary gold in the country during the last 3 financial years is given below"-

Financial Year	*Quantity (kgs)*
1988-89	2066.19
1989-90	2154.30
1990-91	2093.30

Since gold is not an essential commodity, the Government does not regulate its supply in the domestic market. However, as announced in the Budget Speech of 29th February, 1992, import of gold on payment of customs duty has been allowed to passengers of Indian origin and Indian passport holders upto a quantity of 5 kgs. subject to certain conditions. It is not possible to estimate its demand in the country.

[*English*]

Decline in Small Savings.

1706. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the small savings collections during 1991;

(b) if so, the extent of decline;

(c) whether it has led to a fall in the share of States and if so, the extent thereof, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government had appointed a Committee to look into the reasons for improving the same;

(e) if so, the composition of the committee;

(f) whether this Committee has since submitted its report to the Government, if so, when; and

(g) the salient features of the suggestions made by the Committee in its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The net collections in small savings during April to December, 1991 show a decline of 32.8% over the net collections during April to December, 1990.

(c) Yes, Sir. The statewise extent of the shortfall will be known after the close of the financial year.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Committee was headed by Dr. C. Rangarajan, Member, Planning Commission. Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Additional Secretary (Budget), Department of Economic Affairs, a representative of Department of Posts, Finance Secretaries of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal were members of the Committee.

(f) The Committee has submitted its report in February, 1992.

(g) The Committee has suggested increase in interest rates on certain small savings instruments and extensio of fiscal concessions.

Import of Cloves and Cassia

1707. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations regardig import of cloves and cassia as a restricted items;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from various quarters for continiouce of the import of cloves and cassia against specific licences and for not permitting the import of these itmes against Eximscrips.

(c) Government have announced structural changes to the Import & Export Policy vide Ministry of Commerce Public Notice No. 278-ITC (PN)/90-93 dated 29.2.92 and the items cloves and cassia, being covered by the negative list continue to be available for import against specific licences as hitherto. Copies of the aforesaid Public Notice are abatable in the Parliament library.

Currency Notes

1708. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: